

FAMILY Service



Family Service

for: Children's Church,
Westlands,
Nairobi.

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*Published for
Children's Church Westlands
P.O. Box [REDACTED]
Nairobi, Kenya
Printed by
Act Print Ltd.
P.O. Box 48127
Nairobi, Kenya*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Children's Church is grateful to members of its congregation and others for their help in compiling and illustrating this booklet.

Acknowledgement is made of material used, with permission, from other sources as follows:

From 'The Lord is my Shepherd' by Ena V. Martin published by Mowbray and Co. Ltd – the Birthday Prayer.

From 'Infant Prayers' by Margaret Kitson published by Oxford University Press – the Christmas Prayer.

Adapted from 'Well God, here we are again . . .' by John Bryant and David Winter, published by Hodder and Stoughton Ltd – the Whitsun Prayer.

From 'Let's Talk to God' by Zinnia Bryan published by Scripture Union – the Easter Prayer.

Adapted from 'Let's Talk to God' and 'Let's Talk to God Again' by Zinnia Bryan published by Scripture Union

- *the Alternative Confession*
- *prayer D 'For Peace'*
- *prayer F 'For Christian people everywhere'*
- *prayer H 'For sick people in hospital'*
- *prayer J 'For poor and hungry people'*
- *prayer M 'For travelling people'*
- *the Advent Prayer*

THE CHILDREN'S CHURCH, WESTLANDS, NAIROBI

F A M I L Y S E R V I C E

1. Call to Worship

The Leader may say:

"Come, let us praise the Lord,
Let us come before Him with thanksgiving
And sing joyful songs of praise."

(Psalm 95:1,2)

or Any other scripture verse (of praise).

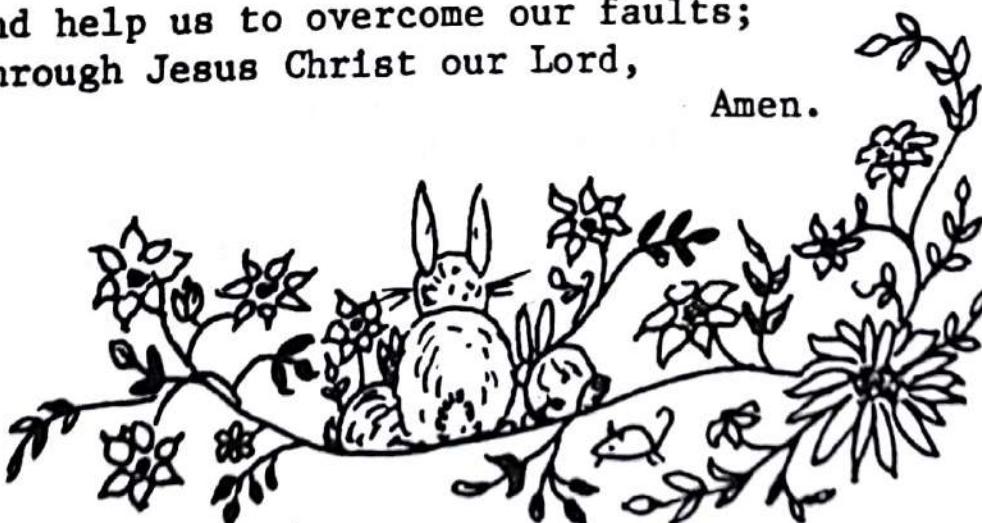
2. Hymn of Praise

3. Prayer of Confession

either

Almighty God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
In thought, word and deed;
We have not loved you with all our hearts,
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
Have mercy upon us;
Cleanse us from our sins;
And help us to overcome our faults;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.



or

Father God,

I know that last week I hurt you by things I did or said or thought;

I am truly sorry;

Please forgive me, and help me to live as you want me to.

When people say sorry to me, help me to forgive them straight away, and to be ready at once to be friends again.

Through Jesus Christ my Lord,

Amen.

4. Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: The Bible tells us: "If we confess our sins, He is just and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong."

(1 John 1:9)

(or any other suitable scripture verse of assurance of forgiveness.)

5. The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in Heaven

Hallowed be your name;

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

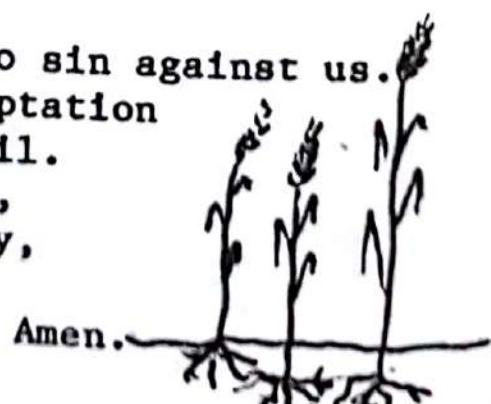
And lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever,



Amen.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

Leader: Praise the Lord!

All: The Lord's name be praised!

6. Reading from the Bible.

(A chorus or song may follow the reading.)

7. The Offering (during which a hymn or song may be sung.)

After the offering the following prayer may be said:

All: O God,
You are more ready to give than we are to receive.
Help us to understand that in giving to you we are saying that all we have is yours.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Amen.

or the Leader may choose another suitable prayer.

8. Notices



9. Birthdays If there are any children with birthdays, a suitable chorus may be sung and/or the following prayer:

Lord, we thank you for every happy birthday.
As we grow in age and strength , , ,
may we grow also in the knowledge of your love
and become more like you.
For Jesus' sake,

Amen.



- ** If there is to be a Baptism, at this point turn to page 18.
At the conclusion of the Baptism, continue with songs and choruses at No. 13.

10. We shall stand to declare together our Christian Faith

either

- (a) All: I believe in God who made the world.
I believe in Jesus Christ my Lord,
Born of Mary, who lived and died and rose again,
And now lives in heaven with God -
His heavenly Father, and mine.
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Who helps all followers until Christ comes back again.
I believe in the universal church of all disciples,
The fellowship and communion of all believers,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting,

Amen.

Or

(b) Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: This is the faith of the church.

All: This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.



11. Prayers Two or three prayers may be selected from the following; the Leader may read others, or suggestions for prayer may also be invited from the congregation.

A. Thanksgiving

O God, you are so mighty and we are so small,
Yet you care for us.
You have given us blessing upon blessing,
 the food we eat,
 the air we breathe,
 the sounds we hear,
 the beauty we see,
For these and all your many gifts we thank you.
Especially we thank you for Jesus, your Son
 who has opened for us the way to heaven.
Fill us each day with a new sense of gratitude
 and enable us to show this
 by what we say,
 what we do,
 and what we are.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Amen.

B. For Families

Heavenly Father,
We thank you for our homes and families,
And for all the happiness that parents and
children can share.
We ask that your love may surround us,
Your care may protect us,
And that we may know your grace at all times.
For Jesus Christ's sake,

Amen.



C. For our Rulers

Almighty God, King of kings and Lord of lords;
We pray that you will guide our President and
all in authority in our country.
May they always use the responsibility which you
have given them for the peace of the world,
And the benefit, honour and development of our
nation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

D. For Peace

O God our Father,
You see all the quarrelling and fighting that
there is in the world,
And all the sadness that comes from it.
You know about the quarrels in our homes and in
our schools,
And between the countries of the world.
You are the only one who can stop us from being
selfish, and hating one another.
Help us to love people we find it hard to like,
And please bring peace to the countries where
there is fighting.
For Jesus Christ's sake,
Amen.

E. For the Church in Kenya

Thank you Lord for the Christian Church,
Its work and witness throughout the world.
We pray for the leaders of your church in this
country,
That you will give them wisdom and the knowledge
of your presence.
Let your Holy Spirit guide them as they proclaim
your word.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

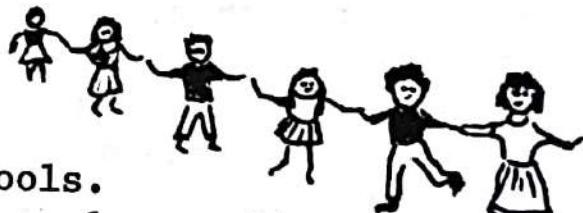


F. For Christian people everywhere

O God and Father of us all,
Help us to feel the joy of sharing in the
worship of Christian people everywhere.
We pray for those who want to read the Bible but
live in countries where they are not
allowed to.
Comfort and help them if they are sad or in
danger,
And give them the courage to stand firm in their
faith.
Through the power of Jesus' Name,

Amen.

G. For our schools



O God our Father,
We pray for our schools.
Help us to be happy to learn, listen and join in,
And to be kind and friendly to any new boys and
girls.
Help our teachers to be patient and full of good
ideas.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

H. For sick people in hospital



O God our Father,
We are thinking today of all those whom we know
are ill.
Please comfort them if they are in pain;
Help the doctors and nurses to know how best to
treat them,
And please make them well again soon.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

I. For other sick people

Our Lord and Heavenly Father,
We pray for friends of ours who are unwell today.
Your love for them is greater than ours can ever
be;

Therefore we trust them to your care and keeping
And pray that they may soon be well again.

In Jesus' Name we pray,

Amen.

J. For poor and hungry people

Lord Jesus,

We pray for those who will be unhappy today;
For mothers who have no food to cook for their
children;

For fathers who cannot earn enough money for
their families;

For children who are sick or frightened;
And for those who are alone and without people to
love them.

We ask you to care for them and to show us ways
we can help them too.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.



K.

Thanksgiving for rain

- 10 -

Leader: God our Father

You know all the things we need.
δ Thank you for sending the rain again δ
this year.

All: Thank you Father for the rain.

Leader: For the rain which falls on the farms
and on our vegetable gardens,
So that the crops grow and we can have
food to eat.

All: Thank you Father for the rain. δ

Leader: For the way the rain makes the grass
green again, δ

δ So that the cows have enough to eat and
can give us milk.

All: Thank you Father for the rain.

Leader: For the water which fills the dams
And makes sure there is enough water in
our taps for drinking and washing. δ

All: Thank you Father for the rain.

Leader: For water in garden hoses, and in deep
puddles for splashing in, and in
swimming pools where we can enjoy
ourselves. δ

All: Thank you Father for the rain.

Leader: For the way the rain makes the air
fresh and cool, and the roads less
dusty.

δ For the grasses and bushes which will
now be good for the giraffes and the
gazelles and the elephants.

All: Thank you Father for the rain.

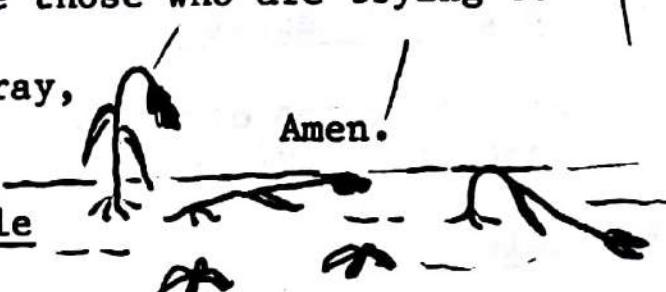
Amen.

L. Prayer for rain



Heavenly Father, you know all the things we need;
We pray that you will send rain on this country
for the crops to grow, so that everybody may
have enough to eat,
And for the rivers and dams to be filled to
supply us with water and electricity.
We pray for those who are suffering from the
effects of drought,
And ask you to guide those who are trying to
help them.
In Jesus' Name we pray,

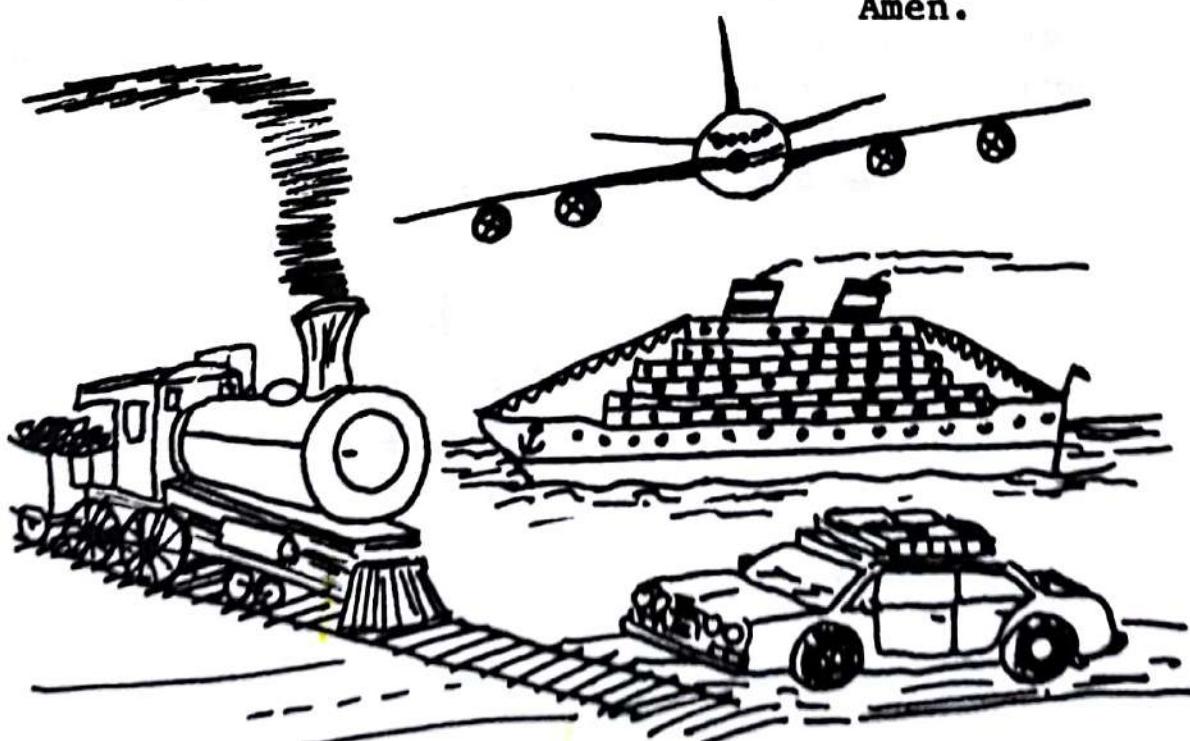
Amen.



M. For travelling people

O God our Father,
Please watch over all who travel today,
Whether by road or by air;
Please give drivers common sense and politeness;
Teach them to take care against accidents
And to obey the rules made for safety.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.



12. The Grace

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the Love of God,
And the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all, evermore,

Amen.



Prayers for special occasions (Christmas, Easter, etc.) may be found on P 14.

13. Songs and Choruses

At this point older children may leave for their own teaching session.

14. Talk

15. Hymn

16. Final prayers and blessing

Our Father,
Grant that as we leave your house
We may know that we never leave your presence.
May we carry with us the joy of inward happiness
And the peace in our hearts which comes from
living close to you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

THANK
YOU
JESUS

The Leader shall say one of the following blessings:

- (a) Now to him who is able to keep us from falling
And to present us without fault before the
presence of his glory, full of joy
to the only God our Saviour,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Be glory, majesty, dominion and authority,
Before all time and now and forever,

Amen.

or

- (b) The Lord bless us and keep us,
The Lord make his face smile upon us
and be gracious to us,
The Lord lift up his face upon us,
and give us peace,

Amen.

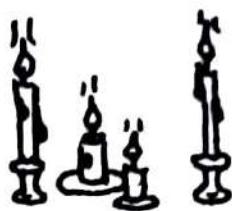
or

- (c) May grace, mercy and peace,
from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Be with us all, today and evermore,

Amen.



Prayers for special occasions



ADVENT

Jesus our Saviour, you are King of all kings and
Lord of all lords.
We thank you that you have promised to come again
one day,
Not as a baby in a stable, but as the King of all
the world.
Please make us into the kind of people you want us
to be,
So that when you come, you will find us ready
for you,

Amen.

CHRISTMAS

Dear baby Jesus, we have come to find you in the
stable at Bethlehem.

May we love you as Mary loved you;
May we serve you as Joseph served you;
May we worship you as the angels worshipped you,
Jesus, our King.

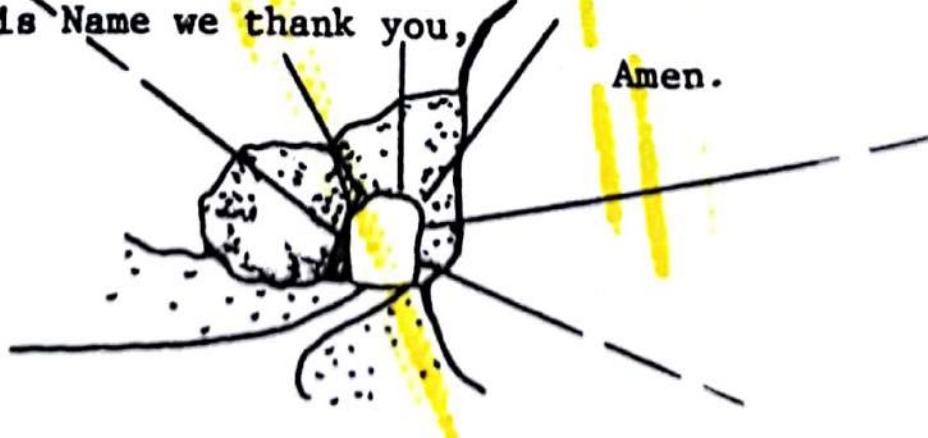
Amen.



EASTER

We thank you, God, that because of Easter Day
We may know for certain that dying isn't the end.
Thank you that you can give to us
the same kind of life that you gave to Jesus
when you raised him from the dead.
In his Name we thank you,

Amen.



WHITSUN (PENTECOST)

We thank you, Heavenly Father,
That when Jesus went back to be with you in heaven,
You sent us the Holy Spirit to take his place.
Though we cannot see him, we know he is at work
in the world in everything that is good and holy.
May he live in us to shape and mould our lives
and guide us day by day.
In Jesus' Name we pray,

Amen.

HARVEST

Our Father in heaven,
We thank you today for providing for all our needs
throughout the past year;
For the rain and the sunshine which have helped
the crops to grow
And for the wonderful variety of things to eat.
We pray for those who will use these offerings,
That they may enjoy health and strength.
Keep us from being wasteful or greedy,
Or from neglecting those who are hungry.
For Jesus' sake,

Amen.



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING FOR A NEW CHILD

Thanksgiving

Leader: 'Children are a gift from the Lord;
They are a real blessing' (Psalm 127:3)

All: Father God, thank you for giving.....
name of child) to the (surname
of family) family.

Thank you for his (her) health and strength.

Thank you for his (her) personality.

Thank you for the joy he (she) has brought.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Prayer for the Parents

All: Dear God, we thank you for.... (names of parents), for your love for them and their faith in you.

Please help them as they look after.....(name of child and any brothers or sisters). Give them wisdom and love. Help them to teach their child (children) about you and about the Lord Jesus.

In His name we pray.

Amen.

The Blessing



Reading: Matthew 19:13-15.

'Some people brought children to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and to pray for them, but the disciples scolded the people. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." And He laid His hands on the children, and went His way.'

Leader: Jesus blessed children long ago. Now we are going to bless (name of child) in Jesus' name.

(the leader and a member of the congregation place their hands on the child's head or shoulder)

All: In the name of Jesus we bless you(name of child). May His angels guard you. May you grow up to know His love, to belong to Him, and to serve Him.
Amen.

Parents' Rededication

Parents: Father, we acknowledge your goodness to us and rededicate ourselves to you now. With your help we will care for (name of child) and bring him (her) up to know your ways, your word, and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves and our child (children) into your care.

'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.' *

Amen.

(* Joshua 24:15)

A SERVICE OF INFANT BAPTISM (To be conducted by someone
duly licenced by the
Bishop and authorised by
the Provost or his deputy)

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ took children in his arms and blessed them, saying, 'Let the children come to me; do not try to stop them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.'

Again he said, 'In truth I tell you, unless a man has been born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. No-one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from water and Spirit'.

Let us pray for (names of child/children) whom we bring to baptism in the name of our Lord, and say together:

All: Heavenly Father, grant that by the Holy Spirit (names of child/children) may be born again and brought to know you in the family of your Church; that in newness of life he (she/they) may overcome evil and grow in grace until his (her/their) life's (lives') end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

THE DECISION

(The leader shall say to the parents and godparents)

Those who bring children to be baptized must affirm their allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that is evil. It is your duty to bring up this child (these children) to fight against evil and to follow Christ.

Therefore I ask:

Leader: Do you turn to Christ?

Answer: I turn to Christ

Leader: Do you repent of your sins?

Answer: I repent of my sins.

Leader: Do you renounce evil?

Answer: I renounce evil.

THE BLESSING OF THE WATER

(The leader shall go to the font with the parents and godparents and the children to be baptized, and shall say):

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Answer: And with your spirit.



Leader: Let us pray:

We give thanks to you, almighty Father,
everlasting God, through your most dearly
beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

Because by His death and resurrection you
have broken the power of evil, and by the
sending of the Holy Spirit you have made us
new people in the family of the Church.

Bless, we pray, this water, that all who are
baptized in it may be born again in Christ;
that being baptized into His death, and
receiving forgiveness of all their sins,
they may know the power of His resurrection,
and may walk in newness of life;

Through the same, your Son Jesus Christ our
Lord, to whom with you and the same Spirit
be all might, majesty, dominion, and power,
throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.



THE BAPTISM

(The leader shall then say to the parents and godparents):

Leader: You have brought this child (these children) to baptism. You stand in the presence of God and His Church. You must now make the Christian profession in which he (she/they) is (are) to be baptized, and in which you will bring him (her/them) up.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

Answer: I believe and trust in Him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in His Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

Answer: I believe and trust in Him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in His Holy Spirit, who sanctifies the people of God?

Answer: I believe and trust in Him.

(The leader shall then take each child, and having asked his (her) name, shall dip him (her) in the water, or pour water upon him (her), saying):

Leader: (name), I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE SIGNING OF THE CROSS

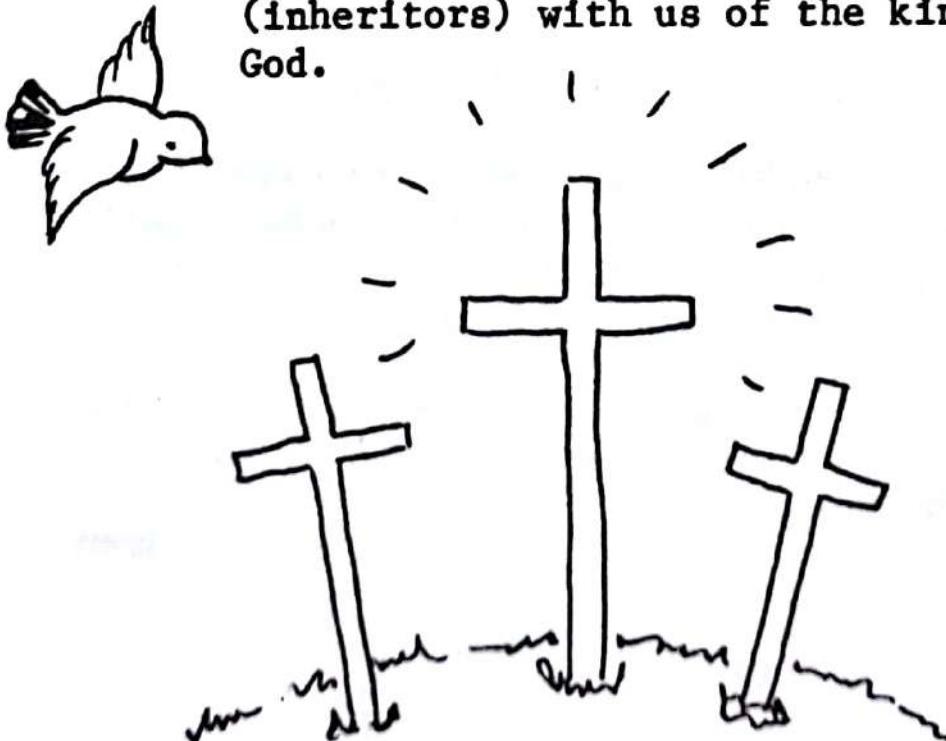
(The leader shall make a cross upon the forehead of each child, saying):

Leader: I sign you with the sign of the cross.

All: To show that you must not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under his banner against sin, the world, and the devil, and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant until your life's end.

(The leader and people together may then say to all the newly baptized)

All: God has received you by baptism into His Church. We therefore welcome you into the Lord's family, as a fellow member (fellow members) of the Body of Christ, as a child (children) of the same heavenly Father, as an inheritor (inheritors) with us of the kingdom of God.



THE PRAYERS

All: Our Father in heaven,
Holy be your name;
Your kingdom come;
Your will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against
us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

Leader: We pray our Father for this child
(these children) who has (have)
now been baptized.

Grant that he (she/they) may grow in the
faith in which he (she/they) has (have)
been baptized;

grant that he himself (she herself/they
themselves) may profess it when he
(she/they) comes (come) to be confirmed;
and

grant that all things belonging to the
Spirit may live and grow in him
(her/them);

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Leader: Bless, we pray, the parents of this child
(these children); give them the Spirit of
wisdom and love, that their home may be
an image of your eternal kingdom; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and
the love of God, and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore.
Amen.

Consecration

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I have everything I need.

He lets me rest in fields of green grass
and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

He gives me new strength.
He guides me in the right way,
as he has promised.

Even if that way goes through
deepest darkness,
I will not be afraid, Lord,
because you are with me!
Your shepherd's rod and staff keep me safe.

You prepare a banquet for me,
where all my enemies can see me:
you welcome me by pouring ointment
on my head
and filling my cup to the brim.

Certainly your goodness and love
will be with me as long as I live;
and your house will be my home forever.

KENYA NATIONAL ANTHEM

- 1 O God of all creation,
 Bless this our land and nation:
 Justice be our shield and defender;
 May we dwell in unity
 Peace and liberty;
 Plenty be found within our borders.
- 2 Let one and all arise
 With hearts both strong and true:
 Service be our earnest endeavour,
 And our Homeland of Kenya,
 Heritage of splendour,
 Firm may we stand to defend.
- 3 Let all with one accord
 In common bond united.
 Build this our nation together;
 And the glory of Kenya
 The fruit of our labour
 Fill every heart with thanksgiving.

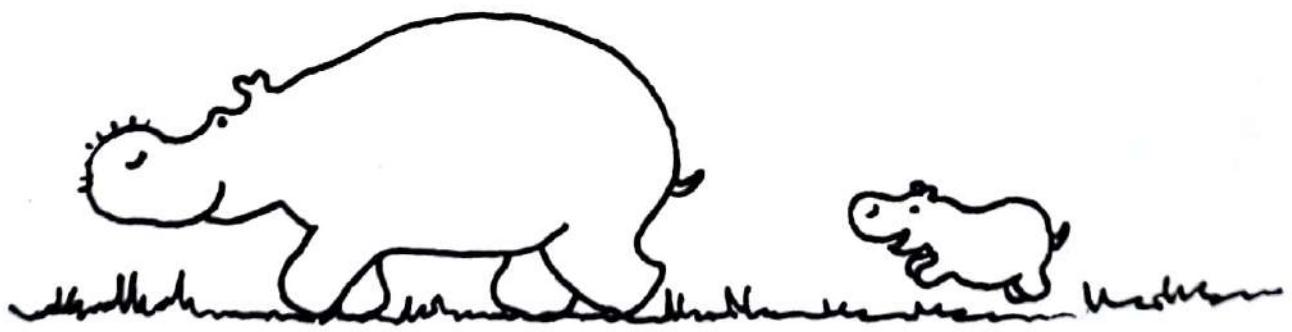
WIMBO WA TAIFA LA KENYA

- 1 Ee mungu nguvu yetu,
Ilete baraka kwetu:
Haki iwe ngao na mlinzi
Natukae na undungu,
Amani na uhuru,
Raha tupate na ustawi.

- 2 Amkeni ndugu zetu,
Tufanye sote bidii
Nasi tujitoe kwa nguvu,
Nchi yetu ya Kenya
Tunayoipenda,
Tuwe tayari kuilinda.

- 3 Na tujenge taifa letu:
Ee, ndio wajibu wetu
Kenya istahili heshima,
Tuungane mikono
Pamoja kazini
Kila siku tuwe na shukrani.

See you next week!



KShs 7·50